Evening Telegraph

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47 The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 15 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2½, 3½, and 4½. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

THE ELECTION ON TUESDAY. AFTER a succession of deeply exciting political campaigns, a comparatively quiet contest is now rapidly drawing to a close. The fact that this calm has succeeded the most turbulent and dangerous period of our national history, however, is one of the best of reasons for continuing the Republican party in power. It indicates the true method of averting future shocks, and of prolonging the era of peace and prosperity upon which the nation has happily entered. No man can tell how many mischievous results would have followed the triumph of the opposition on any one of the leading issues of the last ten years, but the whole nation now knows that the success of Republican principles has redounded, wonderful degree,

the general welfare. The contentious Southern States have been not only reconstructed, but pacified to an extent that seemed impossible a few years ago. They are regaining wealth with unexampled rapidity, and the day is not far distant when the candid and unprejudiced portions of their native population will confess that the triumph of the old flag has redounded even more to the advantage of the South than of the North. Emancipation has already proved in innumerable instances a double blessing. It has increased the real wealth of many of the planters, while it has raised their former chattels to the dignity of manhood, and spread the broad segis of freedom over every foot of American soil. The debt, that fearful legacy of the war, has ceased to be a bugbear or a source of serious oppression. The credit of the nation has been proudly maintained. A large portion of the principal has been discharged with a promptness unparalleled in financial history, and meanwhile enormous reductions of taxation have followed in quick succession. The last, which went into operation on the 1st inst., will of itself diminish the annual burdens of the American people from sixty to eighty millions of dollars. These satisfactory results are due in a large measure to the increased efficiency and honesty infused by the present administration into the departments entrusted with the collection of the public revenues, and to the revival of a spirit of economy in appropriations for the support of the National Government. At no time since the termination of General Jackson's administration was the annual expenditure, per capita, for national objects exclusive of those appertaining to the payment of the interest and principal of the public debt, so small as it is at the present moment. The Democratic administrations of Van Buren, Polk, Pierce, and Buchanan all imposed heavier taxes, per capits, for the ordinary expenses of the Government than the Republicans are imposing under the present laws, and this fact speaks volumes in favor of the economical spirit now prevailing at Washington. We have peace, order, liberty, public credit, prosperity, progression, patriotism, protection, and economy under the Republican national rule-is it wise or safe to risk the danger of the loss of these blessings which is involved in a change of the complexion of Congress? The voter who seriously ponders this plain question will need no prompting from us in regard to his duty on Tuesday nex in reference to the Congressional tickets.

So far as city politics are concerned, the partial triumph of the Democracy here two years ago, the subsequent exposure of the means by which it was achieved, and the standing admonition furnished by Democratic misrule, rascality, corruption, and extravagance in New York, clearly point out to Philadelphians which party is most worthy of their confidence. There is room for reform here as elsewhere, but Republican management of municipal affairs in this city is a model of purity and perfection when contrasted with the iniquitous proceedings of the magnates of Tammany Hall.

There is really no good reason why any member of the Republican party should fail to support any of its candidates (save those who are notoriously incompetent or corrupt) on Tuesday next, while the lessons and successes of the past unmistakably prove that our future welfare can most safely be entonsted to its guidance.

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

IT WILL save much future controversy and trouble if our citizens, before casting their votes on Tuesday next for either Penn Square or Washington Square, will understand clearly that there is in reality no choice in the matter, and that, even if the majority should decide in favor of Washington Square, there is not the remotest probability that the public buildings will be erected there. In case Washington Square should be chosen, and it is discovered after the election that the Legislature had no power to authorize its destruction as a public park, the agitation with regard to Independence Square will be

recommenced by the property holders in the vicinity, and at the next session of the Legislature every effort will be made to have the law forbidding the erection of a huge pile of buildings to overshadow the State House repealed. We do not believe that the Legislature will do this, although there is no ca'culating upon what may or may not be done at Harrisburg, and the best way to settle the whole difficulty, at once and forever, is for the voters of Philadelphia to say that the Penn Squares shall be used for the purpose that the founder of the city inteaded.

William Penn set apart the spaces now called Washington, Franklin, Rittenhouse, and Logan Squares to be public parks for the adornment of the city and the recreation of its inhabitants. Apart from the gross impropriety of diverting these beautiful parks from the uses to which Willam Penn intended that they should be devoted, there is a legal question of the most serious character to be taken into consideration that will effectually prohibit the contemplated outrage. According to the opinion of one of the most able jurists of this city, which has been published, the heirs of William Penn will be entitled to claim Washington Square in event of the conditions upon which it was granted to the city being violated. These heirs are known to be vigilant and rapacious, and they would not hesitate for an instant to bring suit for the possession of any of the public parks if they thought there was the slightest probability of success. Independently of this feature of the case, it has already been decided by the Supreme Court, in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Alburger, that none of the four squares can ever be built upon, but that they must remain open forever as public walks, like the Moorfields in London.

There are few persons besides the propertyholders in the neighborhood of Independence and Washington Squares, who have given this subject any thought, who will not agree that Penn Square, on its own merits, is the best possible site for the public buildings within the city limits; and it will be well for those who are in doubt as to which location is the most advantageous to bear in mind the facts that we have here set forth, and to aid by their votes in avoiding a series of expensive and vexations lawsuits in which the city will undoubtedly be involved if Washington Square is selected as a site for the public buildings on Tuesday next.

THE REGISTER OF WILLS. THE Democrats are using all their energies to elect their candidate for Register of Wills, and they are even willing to sacrifice a majority of their ticket if they can only secure this and one or two other of the lucrative offices to be filled at the coming election. The Registry of Wills is an important and reponsible position, that ought never to be entrusted to any but an honest, reliable, and respectable man who will enjoy the entire confidence of the community: and, bad as the Democratic ticket for the coming election is, it is not too much to say that Anthony A. Laws, the candidate for Register of Wills, is the worst nomination upon it. This man is the representative of the gang of ruffians who infest the lower part of the city, and at the last election he was the leader of a band of repeaters who employed themselves in voting the Democratic ticket early and often in the First and Second wards, and in intimidating Republican voters and driving them from the polls. We refer our readers to the testimony on this point in the case of Diamond vs. Watt which has already been published in these columns, and it needs no argument to prove that Laws obtained the nomination for Register of Wills as a reward for his distinguished services in the cause of the Democracy on this and other occasions. It will be a disgrace to the city of Philadelphia if such a man as this is elected to any office of trust or responsibility, and any Democrats who have self-respect or regard for the public interests will not hesitate a moment about scratching his name from their ballots. Let those who have or are likely to have business with the Register of Wills imagine what the office will be like with such a man as Anthony A. Laws in charge, and with his friends and followers about him at all times; and considerations of decency alone will prevent him from receiving the votes of any citizens who have the slightest regard for decency and propriety.

THE SELECTION of a proper pavement for Broad street ought to be made without forther delay, so that the work of improving our great thoroughfare can be commenced in good earnest at as early a day as possible. The present condition of the central portion of Broad street is a serious injury to all the property in its neighborhood, and there are thousands of real estate owners besides those upon the immediate line of the street who are directly interested in having the roadway laid with a suitable pavement at the earliest possible moment. In the selection of a pavement care should be taken to choose one that will combine as many desirable qualities as possible, and while every effort should be made to keep the expense down to as small a figure as possible, no false ideas of economy should cause a pavement to be chosen merely because it will cost less in the beginning than another that will excel it in durability and other important qualities. Thus far public opinion has inclined very decidedly to a wooden pavement of some sort, and provided durability and facility for repairing and for obtaining communication with the gas and water pipes beneath the surface of the street are assured. wood is in very many respects the best material that can be chosen. The question of paving Broad street has been under consideration long enough certainly for the city authorities to come to some conclusion with regard to it, and we hope that Councils will immediately take some active steps towards having the work commenced at an early day. The present condition of Broad street is simply shameful, and it will never be improved as it ought to be until it is raved in a creditable manner.

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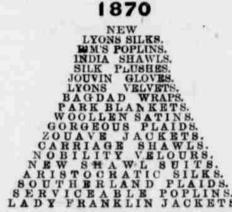
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